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CLAIMS

1. Alert apparatus for providing an alert indication directed to a user thereof; the apparatus being incorporated into or attached to fastener equipment for securing an item,
5 wherein said apparatus comprises-

first and second elements, which are moveable together and apart, the item being in a secure position when the first and second elements are together;

wherein at least one of the elements is arranged to
10 provide an alert indication directed to the user, said alert indication being suppressed when the first and second elements are at or adjacent one another.

2. Alert apparatus according to claim 1, wherein at least
15 one of said elements includes a bell having a clapper or ball for providing said alert indication.

3. Alert apparatus according to claim 2, wherein movement of said clapper or ball is suppressed when the first and second
20 elements are at or adjacent one another.

4. Alert apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein the fastener equipment is for securing an aperture in an item closed, and said first and second elements are moveable
25 together for closing the aperture and moveable apart for opening the aperture.

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5. Alert apparatus according to claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the fastener equipment is for securing first and second members together, and said first and second elements are moveable together for attaching said first and second members and
5 moveable apart for detaching said first and second members.

6. Alert apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein at least one of said elements has magnetic means for suppressing said alert indication by means of magnetic force.
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7. Alert apparatus according to any one of claims 1-5, wherein at least one of said elements has mechanical means for suppressing said alert indication by means of mechanical action.

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8. Alert apparatus according to any one of claims 1, and 4-7, wherein one of said elements includes an electronic device operable to emit light, sound, vibration or any combination thereof for providing said alert indication.

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9. Alert apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein both said elements are arranged to provide an alert indication.

25 10. Alert apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein said elements can be connected together by means of a

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magnetic force.

11. Alert apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein said elements can be connected together by means of a surface fastener or a buckle.

12. Alert apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein at least one of said elements is connected to a slider of a slide fastener that is incorporated in a wearable or portable item.

13. Alert apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said first element is connected to a first slider, and said second element is connected to a second slider.

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14. Alert apparatus according to any one of claims 1-12, wherein said first element is connected to a slider of a slide fastener that is incorporated in a wearable or portable item, and said second element is disposed on said wearable or portable item in a fixed position relative to said item.

15. Alert apparatus according to claim 12, 13 or 14, wherein said slide fastener is a zip fastener.

25 16. Alert apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein said item is a portable item or a wearable item.

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17. Alert apparatus for providing an alert indication directed to a user thereof; the apparatus being incorporated into or attached to fastener equipment for closing an
5 aperture in an item, wherein said apparatus comprises-

first and second elements, which are moveable together for closing said aperture and apart for opening said aperture;

wherein at least one of the elements is arranged to
10 provide an alert indication directed to the user, said alert indication being suppressed when the first and second elements are at or adjacent one another.

18. Alert apparatus for providing an alert indication
15 directed to a user thereof for incorporation into or attachment to fastener equipment for securing an item, wherein said apparatus comprises-

first and second elements, which are moveable together and apart, the item being in a secure position when the
20 first and second elements are together when incorporated in or attached to the fastener equipment;

wherein at least one of the elements is arranged to provide an alert indication directed to the user, said alert indication being suppressed when the first and second
25 elements are at or adjacent one another.